

OK, this is vacation week, - so I won't be able to keep up on the latest news trends. Last year, when I went away the Lebanese / Israeli War broke out. So if nukēs go off in the Middle East...we'll do analysis next issue. If we're raptured...we'll talk about it up there. - rob

GIMME DAT END TIMES RELIGION – PART VI

*Deception is the byword of the Age. Combinations of human forces; - the New Agers, the Illuminati, and others, - have set about achieving a complete transformation of mankind. They are abetted in this endeavor by beings from a spiritual dimension, outside of our human experience whose aim is the deception and destruction of as much of the human race as they can take with them. Knowingly or not they are in the employ of Satan, the adversary. 1Peter 5:8 tells us **“the devil walks about like a roaring lion, seeking whom he may devour”**. Consult the New Age literature, or that of Islam or the Eastern Religions or the Mayans or the Neo-Pagans and you will find that this transformation they seek will be ushered in by a man bringing the ‘Christ Consciousness’ with him, - moving mankind to a new level of spiritual existence. The Bible too speaks of that coming time, when the **“man of sin”** will reign. He will come to power using **“the working of Satan, with all power, signs, and lying wonders, and with all unrighteous deception among those who perish”**.*

(2Thessalonians 2:9-10) In this segment we will begin to explore the ties that connect all of human religious experience; from the supernatural interactions described in Genesis 6 through the ancient pagan fables to the “close encounters” with aliens in our own time; - from the dawn of spiritual awareness to the coming reign of the Antichrist

MAKING CONNECTIONS

“For false christs and false prophets will rise and show signs and wonders to deceive, if possible, even the elect.”
(Mark 13:22)

For the past several chapters we've been looking at the connection between the Nephilim of Genesis 6, the demons of old and the reported characteristics of 'space aliens'. With that in mind, it is interesting to note the beliefs of the early Church Fathers with regard to the Antichrist. They believed strongly that he would have his origins in a union between demon and human, - a mocking parallel of Christ's nature, who was conceived through the power of the Holy Spirit. No less a thinker, philosopher and theologian than St. Augustine validated his belief in the existence of, and human interaction with, demons in his seminal work, *City of God*. Seventeenth century theologian, Fr. Ludovicus Somostrari de Ameno described a generation of hybrid beings akin to those described in Genesis 6, writing: “It is by this process that Antichrist must be born”. This was a common thought among early Church thinkers.¹

It all brings us back to the beginnings of the rebellion recorded in Genesis when **“the sons of God saw the daughters of men, that they were beautiful”** (Genesis 6:2) and took them as wives producing the beings known as Nephilim. It was these offspring that inspired the pagan rebellion that resulted ultimately in the Flood and the attempt by Nimrod to set up a society completely independent of God and His moral law.

It's all connected. Let's review. This Biblical story of the Nephilim & Nimrod & Noah & the Flood is reflected in pagan beliefs found all around the world. The real Queen Semiramis of Babel, wife of Nimrod, - took on new names and forms in civilizations throughout the ancient world. A mother-child cult developed about her as both mother & son took on divine attributes to their devotees found around the globe. Statues depicting the queen mother holding her infant child, - often with halos around their heads, - were found as objects of worship in ancient pagan cultures throughout the world.

Even the Israelites, exposed to solid and repeated revelation from the God of the Bible, - were not immune to this goddess worshipping cult. The Scriptures record that God's Chosen People fell from faith and took up the worship of the **"queen of heaven"**, (see Jeremiah 7:18, 44:17-25), a form of goddess worship coming out of Baalism. This was indeed, the worship of Semiramis herself. The torch of leadership of the organized branch of paganism passed from Babylon to Pergamos to Rome. There, we will see, things took an interesting turn.

But when the Israelites were not straying into worship of pagan gods, they were developing a system that honored the One True God of Creation. Here is where we get down to the essential difference between Biblical "religion" and every other form. You see God's "religion", in one sense, is really no religion at all. It is an offer of relationship with the God of the Universe through His Son, Jesus the Messiah. Just look at all the other religions of the world and you will find that they have one thing in common: They are all an attempt to find a way to God, to please Him, - through human works of righteousness or ceremony or sacrifice. God's way as laid out in the Scriptures, is entirely different. It is God who makes the way to salvation. Abraham found the truth of this when he went in obedience to sacrifice his son Isaac on Mt Moriah. When asked by Isaac he told his son, **"God will provide for himself a lamb for a burnt offering"**. (Genesis 22:8) The sacrifice of the God-Man Jesus Christ on the Cross, satisfied the righteous requirements of the Law and paved the way for man's redemption. Christ is a fulfillment of the Jewish Scriptures of the Old Testament. He became our Passover sacrifice, the Lamb of God. (See 1Peter 1:19) The prophet Jeremiah had promised such a development, just as so many of the prophets had promised a coming Messiah. **"Behold, the days come, saith the LORD, that I will make a new covenant with the house of Israel, and with the house of Judah.... I will put my law in their inward parts, and write it in their hearts; and will be their God, and they shall be my people"** (Jeremiah 31:31, 33)

We must remember that Christianity began simply as a sect of the Jewish religion. The Hebrew Scriptures had promised a Messiah. In fact, through a reading of the prophecy of Daniel 9, the Rabbis were expecting the Messiah to come in the first century, right when He did. The prophecies of Micah, Zechariah, Isaiah 53 and Psalm 22, gave clear clues as to the identity and events of Messiah's life, - and Jesus fulfilled them all. So when Peter preached on that first Pentecost following Christ's Resurrection, - he spoke at Jerusalem to a Jewish audience, familiar with not only Christ's ministry but the Law and the prophets as well. He built his case on Jewish Scripture and addressed his audience as **"Men of Israel"**. (Acts 2:22) And he began his peroration with **"Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly that God has made this Jesus, whom you crucified, both Lord and Christ."** (Acts 2:36) Even that *Jesus* that he preached, was 'Jewish to the core', living the life of a Jewish Rabbi, (steeped in Torah), and dying for the violation of Jewish, not Roman law.² The **"three thousand souls"** (Acts 2:41) that surrendered to God that day, accepting Yeshua as Mashiach, were Jewish souls. It was the Jews that served as the foundation of the Church of Jesus Christ. They put their faith in Jesus as the fulfillment of Scripture; - The Torah and the Prophets.

So the original church started as a Jewish sect. It maintained Jewish practices, - with the earliest Christians organizing themselves as communities within the Jewish traditions. Indeed, they likely thought of themselves simply as Jews with an enhanced understanding of the Scriptures. Salvation comes not through the Law but as a **"free gift of God"** through His Son the Messiah.³ So many had seen those Scriptures fulfilled in the person of Jesus of Nazareth. They knew and therefore lived the truth of their faith.⁴

But it did not take long for the character of the Church to change, rejecting the Jewish roots that served as its foundation. The background for this process was the ongoing Jewish rebellion against Roman rule and the subsequent persecutions conducted by the Romans in response. The Jewish rebellion which culminated in the siege and sack of Jerusalem, the destruction of the Temple and the slaughter of 1.1 million Jews in AD 70 by the future Emperor Titus of Rome; - certainly was a blow. However a second rebellion ending in 138 AD was the real blow. It ended with the complete destruction and rebuilding of the city and the scattering of its population; - eventually to the far corners of the earth. In addition both circumcision and the Sabbath were banned. This of course was the end of the very influential Jerusalem church.⁵ So all that

was left of the Jewish Christians were a few scattered Synagogues, with waning influence that pretty much died out entirely by the 4th century.⁶

The result of all of this was that the now dominant Gentile church began to throw off Jewish customs and practices in an effort to distance themselves from the persecuted Jewish population. In addition they began to twist apostolic teaching, slowly becoming anti-Semitic in character.⁷

So The Church Changed

A little history is necessary to set the framework. The Church of the first century was organized around elders, (sometimes called bishops) and deacons. One respected scholar states the historical consensus that no Church centers, - not even Rome or Corinth, - sported a single presiding bishop. It was only over the course of the next couple of centuries that local elders began rising to the rank of presiding elder or bishop of a church, such as the one at Rome. Over time, the East produced 5 “important Christian centers” including Alexandria, Jerusalem, Caesarea, Antioch and Constantinople. In the West, there was only Rome. Over time the struggle for ecclesiastical authority between these various bishoprics led to the Church split between East and West. And because it was the one center for the West, Rome ascended to the top. In short, this means that the office of the Papacy was never occupied by Peter, but developed over time. It is not likely that Peter ever even served as pastor of the Church at Rome. As evidenced by Paul’s letter, that church was in existence before Peter even made it there.⁸

Yet over those early centuries we see a struggle by the various Bishops, especially those of Rome to assert their authority over the entire Church. The Bishops at Rome began to use the ceremonial authority granted them just by sitting in the seat of imperial power. They began to be given primacy in church councils. Still nothing was settled and as late as the 6th century, the Bishop of Constantinople was demanding to be honored as “universal bishop”.⁹ Still by then the writing was on the wall; - thanks in great degree to the sponsorship of the Emperor Constantine and his successors. Over time the Roman Bishops consolidated their power into a supreme ecclesiastical monarchy. Constantine ushered in a new era in Christianity with the legalization of the Christian faith. It resulted in mass, - and sometimes forced conversions, - the centralization of Church authority; - and a syncretism between Christianity and the pagan practices of the masses.¹⁰ This was no longer the church of the Apostles. And there are implications both for the present and for the End Times religion of the Antichrist.

LOSING THE CULTURE WAR

Doubt not that there is indeed a *Culture War*. And doubt not that at present we traditionalists are losing! The polls tell the tale but it all began decades ago. The first step came in 1973 when the emerging Gay Lobby got the American Psychological Association to change the description of homosexuality from a disorder to a neutral term condition.¹¹ Then in 1988, Marshall Kirk and Hunter Madsen wrote a book entitled, *After the Ball: How America Will Conquer Its Fear and Hatred of Gays in the 90's*. They worked under the premise that they could use AIDS to “maximize the sympathy and minimize the fear” of the mainstream culture. The book was aimed at selling “gay rights” to straight America using a three point plan, rooted as much in the brainwashing techniques of Communist China as in the manipulations of Madison Avenue.¹² The processes they would use they described as: 1) Desensitization, 2) Jamming, 3) Conversion. Desensitization was a process to use the media to flood the market with inoffensive gay advertisements until “...the issue becomes thoroughly tiresome”. Kirk and Madsen were out to convince the public that they were like everyone else; in their words, - to “...lull straights into an attitude of indifference”.¹³

Jamming has been described as “psychological terrorism” used to suppress dissent. They used that technique against Dr. Laura and in the case of Matthew Shepherd. His murder, at first believed to be a hate crime, was later found to be motivated primarily by money. But this fact was largely ignored by the mainstream media, as was the case of Jesse Dirkhising, a youth murdered by two homosexuals in Tennessee, not long afterward. The Gay lobby had succeeded in turning the mainstream media, (dominated by 60’s protester types), into being willing accomplices and allies in promoting their agenda. “We mean

a conversion of the average American's emotions, mind and will", they wrote.¹⁴ "It makes no difference that the ads are lies...", so long as they were being used "...to ethically good effect". They used shame and accusations of bigotry against anyone that opposed their agenda. The word "homophobe" became part of the lexicon. Theirs was a "planned psychological attack in the form of propaganda fed to the nation via the media". They enlisted Hollywood in their process. This is how they have achieved conversion.¹⁵ They set out to change the culture. For the most part they've succeeded.

The culture that is increasingly embracing the notion of homosexuality as normal and morally neutral is blithely unaware of the baggage it brings along. Look what's happening. In 1984 only 34% of Americans deemed homosexuality as an "acceptable alternative lifestyle". Now the number stands at a clear majority, 57%. Support for gay marriage has risen from 27% to 46% in just the last 11 years.¹⁶ But the story is even more than that. The campaign laid out by Kirk and Madsen, targeting mass media and schools is starting to bear fruit. The California education system for instance has gone far down the road that would implement social policies that portray gay, lesbian and bisexual relations in a positive light and morally equal to the traditional family. The indoctrination process starts in kindergarten and continues through the 12th grade. In Los Angeles, teachers are "required" to hide the identity of a transgender student from his/her parents.¹⁷ And since the 90's, the film *It's Elementary*, a training guide in homosexuality for activist educators has been making its way through our school systems and numerous PBS stations. It depicts footage of teachers promoting the homosexual lifestyle, "Gay & Lesbian Pride" celebrations in an elementary school and even role-playing by 3rd graders.¹⁸ All this societal indoctrination is having its effect. While overall, Americans may be more evenly split, 75% of those between the ages of 18 and 34 see homosexuality as an acceptable alternative lifestyle.¹⁹ The writing may be on the wall.

But the ramification goes far beyond the individual. Despite attempts to deny it, homosexuality breeds serious mental and social disorders. The Archives of General Psychiatry found serious problems in gays and lesbians 2 to 3 times more prevalent than the general population.²⁰ We're talking about such things as alcoholism, mental and physical diseases, drug use and higher accident rates. In addition there is the danger to our children. While the overall homosexual population has been found to be about 2% - 4%, some "25% - 40% of men attracted to children prefer boys...the homosexual rate of attraction is 6-20 times higher among pedophiles".²¹ Thus the conclusion of the Family Research Institute: "Homosexuals are considerably more apt to involve themselves sexually with the underage".²² Yet those that would define the culture continue to wink at results such as these in the name of blind tolerance and political correctness.

But the retreat in the Culture War is not limited to gay issues alone. Other standards that once defined our culture are fast falling by the wayside in the court of public opinion. Having children outside of marriage is now approved of by over half of the population;²³ - this despite of the damage it does. Families without fathers jumped from 8% in 1960 to 40% today. That demographic brings with it a damning set of social barriers including;- fewer years of schooling completed, increased substance abuse, a rise in alcoholism rates, increased criminal activity, earlier and riskier sexual activity etc.²⁴ But beginning with President Johnson's Great Society Program in the 1960s, the Federal government and society at large has implemented policies that encourage the very single-parent and dysfunctional families that produce these results. And now despite the well-known disadvantages to the child, having a baby outside the confines of a nuclear family is often celebrated and approved by a clear majority of Americans.²⁵ Driven by the media, the liberal vanguard has embraced these society-threatening behaviors as a basic human right. Self-described liberals give overwhelming support to homosexual activity, premarital sex, illegitimacy, abortion and doctor assisted suicide. They have chosen unbridled individual liberty at the expense of personal responsibility. *'It's all good!'* Mankind is choosing to define for itself the very essence of good and evil. It is the same temptation that the Serpent used in the Garden. 'Eat of that fruit', he promised them, and **"you will be like God"**. (Genesis 3:5) And so many still buy that old lie.

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- ¹ Material taken from Tom Horn, Stargates, Ancient Rituals, And Those Invited Through The Portal, Part 12
- ² Don Finto, Your People Shall Be My People, Promise Keepers, 2001, pg 76-77
- ³ Don Finto, Your People Shall Be My People, Promise Keepers, 2001, pg 78
- ⁴ Norbert Brox, A Concise History of the Early Church, pg 4, as referenced by Scott Ashley, Modern Christianity's Forgotten Roots, GN Magazine, Nov / Dec 1997
- ⁵ Scott Ashley, Modern Christianity's Forgotten Roots, GN Magazine, Nov / Dec 1997
- ⁶ Don Finto, Your People Shall Be My People, Promise Keepers, 2001, pg 84
- ⁷ Scott Ashley, Modern Christianity's Forgotten Roots, GN Magazine, Nov / Dec 1997
- ⁸ Dr David Calhoun, Canon, Creed and Bishops, - Ancient & Medieval Church History, Covenant Seminary
- ⁹ J Michael Gainor, Origins of the Papacy, Homestead
- ¹⁰ Dr David Calhoun, The Church in the Fourth Century, - Ancient & Medieval Church History, Covenant Seminary
- ¹¹ David Kupelian, The Marketing of Evil, 2005, (Much of the material from this section taken from Chapter 1, How Gay Rights is Being Sold to America
- ¹² David Kupelian, The Marketing of Evil, 2005
- ¹³ As quoted in Charles Socarides, How America Went Gay, America, November 18, 1995
- ¹⁴ Quoted from David Kupelian, The Marketing of Evil, 2005
- ¹⁵ Charles Socarides, How America Went Gay, America, November 18, 1995
- ¹⁶ Lydia Saad, Tolerance for Gay Rights at High-Water Mark, The Gallup Poll, May 29, 2007
- ¹⁷ Doug Huntington, Homosexual Curriculum Bill Passed by Calif. Senate, Christian Post Register, May 25, 2007
- ¹⁸ Sample footage of the film It's Elementary provided by Mass Resistance @ <http://www.massresistance.org/media/video/brainwashing.html>
- ¹⁹ Lydia Saad, Tolerance for Gay Rights at High-Water Mark, The Gallup Poll, May 29, 2007
- ²⁰ Study of the Dutch population published in the Archives of General Psychiatry, 2001, found in Pro-Gay Bias In Study of Pedophilia, Family Research Institute.
- ²¹ Study by Blanchard, Barbaree, Bogart, Dicky, Klassen, Kuban and Zucker, 2000, pg 464 as reported in Pro-Gay Bias In Study of Pedophilia, Family Research Institute.
- ²² Pro-Gay Bias In Study of Pedophilia, Family Research Institute.
- ²³ Lydia Saad, Tolerance for Gay Rights at High-Water Mark, The Gallup Poll, May 29, 2007
- ²⁴ Bernard Goldberg made this point on FOX News' Hannity & Colmes, June 11, 2007.
- ²⁵ Lydia Saad, Tolerance for Gay Rights at High-Water Mark, The Gallup Poll, May 29, 2007